

Application No. 09/656,742
Amendment dated: March 13, 2003
Reply to Office Action of December 20, 2002

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on December 20, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,032,009 to Gibbons et al. The Examiner alleges that Gibbons discloses exposing anisotropically absorbing molecules to linearly polarized light of a wavelength or wavelengths within the absorption band of the anisotropically absorbing molecules. By this amendment, claims 1, 11, and 24 have been amended. In light of the amendments to claims 1 and 11, claims 3 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-2, 4-12, and 14-27 are currently pending.

The Applicants have considered the Action and the cited art and believe the present invention, as amended, is parentably distinct from the cited art. Claims 1, 11 and 24 have been amended to recite that the light used to irradiate the liquid crystal film is elliptically polarized or partially polarized. Gibbons clearly states that the light used in their invention, "must be linearly polarized." (Column 5, line 38). Gibbons et al. make no teaching or suggestion to use elliptically polarized or partially polarized light. Furthermore, in light of Gibbons' indication that the light *must* be linearly polarized, there is no motivation in Gibbons or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to use elliptically polarized or partially polarized light instead of linearly polarized light. Rather, Gibbons teaches away from using any light other than linearly polarized light.

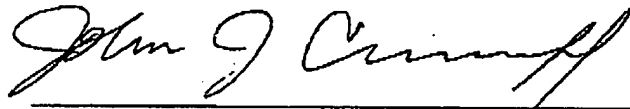
In light of the foregoing amendments and arguments presented herein, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a). A formal Notice of Allowance of claims 1-2, 4-12, and 14-27 is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner care to discuss any of the foregoing in greater detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

No fees are believed to be due at this time. Nonetheless, in the event that a fee is required for the filing of this document, the undersigned attorney hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication, or to credit any overpayment to deposit account number 18-0987.

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Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the foregoing in more detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,



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